

# School's in Session – School Bus Safety

## Wait for and get on and off the bus safely

A new school year means new challenges and experiences for your child. However, as a parent you can make some of the challenges your child will face, like riding on the school bus, a little safer. Now is the time to talk to your child about how to be safe while waiting for and riding the school bus.



### Tips to Keep Your Child Safe near School Buses

1. **Leave plenty** of time to get to the bus stop. Remember when you rush that's when accidents happen.
2. **While waiting** for the bus teach your child to stay at least 5 giant steps away from the road. Also, have your child wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching it.
3. **Teach your** child to never play near the road while waiting for the bus. Tell your child to stay off of snow banks or icy areas that are often found near the edges of roadways.
4. **Make sure** your child knows his/her bus drivers name and bus number to avoiding getting onto the wrong school bus.
5. **Teach your** child to keep toys in her/his backpack while waiting for and riding on the bus. Teach your child to never pick up something he/she drops near the bus. Instead have them ask the bus driver for help.
6. **Remind older** children to hold off on using music devices (Ipods, MP3 players) or cell phones while waiting for or riding the bus. These devices often make it difficult for children to stay alert to what is happening around them.
7. **Tell your** child to use the handrails when getting on and off the bus and to be courteous to the driver. Finding a seat immediately and talking quietly allows the bus driver to concentrate on driving and not be distracted.
8. **Remind your** child to never put anything including head, arms, papers and toys out the school bus window.
9. **Remind your** child to never cross the street behind a school bus. They need to cross in front of the bus only after the bus driver tells him/her it is safe. Remember to take five giant steps away from the front the bus before crossing.
10. **Make sure** your child knows where his/her drop off area is. Also make sure if someone is supposed to pick your child up from the drop-off that the school and bus driver knows who that person is.

